

The Federal Diary

Defense Dept. Asserts Ervin Bill Would Curb Its Security Setup



By Jerry Klutts

The Defense Department charged yesterday that its employee security program would be seriously hampered by the Senate-approved Ervin bill.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Carl W. Clewlow told the House Manpower Subcommittee that if the bill as written becomes law the Department could not question employees on these matters:

- Information that an employee had attended secret Communist Party meetings and that "outside parties or organizations were instructing him on how to sabotage Government activities."

- Information that an employee is heavily in debt and that his failure to pay his just and honorable debts reflects on the Federal service.

- Information that an employee assigned to sensitive duties of interest to foreign intelligence had come into unexpected wealth and that there was reason to believe the money had come from a foreign embassy.

Clewlow endorsed the basic objective of the bill sponsored by **Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D.-N.C.)**. The measure is intended to prevent unwarranted invasions of the privacy of Federal employees, but Clewlow said it failed to insure a proper balance between individual rights and management responsibilities.

A spokesman for Ervin contended the bill would not prohibit the Department from making security inquiries of its employees. "We went over this same ground when the Senate bill was written," his office explained, "and we assumed we had satisfied them."

Nevertheless, **Frank Bar timo**, Defense's assistant general counsel, supported Clewlow and added that it was the opinion of the Department's legal staff that the bill would severely restrict employee security checks.

Clewlow pointed out that the bill exempted the **FBI**, **CIA** and the **National Security Agency**, and argued that it should be extended to include the Department's sensitive activities.

The measure, he said, would discriminate against military personnel who supervise civilians. The military could be court-martialed while civilians couldn't be disciplined for the same offenses.

Clewlow also said the bill would permit civil actions to the Federal

courts without claiming damages or exhausting administrative remedies. This, he believes, would undermine the Department's grievance procedures and employee-management relationships. He thought it would "encourage the filing of spurious suits and open the door to broad and possibly organized harassment of executive actions."

Deductions: Congress has sent to the President a bill to authorize voluntary deductions from employee paychecks to make deposits in credit unions, banks, savings and loan associations and mutual savings institutions.

Treasury takes a dim view of the legislation, contending it could damage the sale of savings bonds.

Post Office Morale: Two postal employee leaders painted a dark picture of rank-and-file morale yesterday as **Rep. Robert N.C. Nix's** sub-

committee began hearings on reported employee unrest.

James H. Rademacher of the AFL-CIO's Letter Carriers, testified that many supervisors and postmasters exploit their workers and "treat them in a manner which would cause instant work stoppages" in private industry.

He charged that local managers treat employees "less than human" because they are not trained in dealing with workers. He told Nix, the only subcommittee member present at the hearings, that bargaining has come to a standstill in many offices because of the refusal of postmasters to negotiate on basic contract issues.

David Silvergield of the independent **National Postal Union**, said career employees are unhappy because many of the best work tours go to students and others hired for temporary jobs, and because

of "politics and favoritism" in promotions and "covert discrimination against racial and ethnic minority groups."

The NPU leader said his Union would not have signed the national exclusive agreement if it had been a party to it.

That agreement, signed by seven unions with recognition at the national level, led to much of the controversy over what postmasters could and could not negotiate at local levels.

Lee Morse has resigned as counsel to the House Banking Committee to practice law here.

The Oregon Research Institute has concluded that the Civil Service Commission's full field investigations of applicants are excellent tools for predicting the performance of **Peace Corps** volunteers. The Corps contracted with the Institute to review recruitment.